R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is
respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-10 have been canceled, and claims 11-23 have been
added to more clearly recite the features of the present
invention.

New independent claim 11 recites, in particular, a control
unit which is configured to perform a first initialization which
is necessary to drive the movable optical system from the housed
state, start the driving of the movable optical system from the
housed state, and then start performing of a second initialization
before the movable optical system reaches the protruding state,
wherein the second initialization is unnecessary to drive the
movable optical system from the housed state. See, for example,
the disclosure in the specification at page 12, line 20 to
page 13, line 21, and at page 15, lines 20-25.

In addition, new claims 12-21 recite additional features of
the camera device recited in new independent claim 11, and are
supported throughout the disclosure in the specification.

Still further, new independent claim 22 recites a method
comprising: performing a first initialization which is necessary
to drive the movable optical system from a housed state; starting

-7-

driving of the movable optical system from the housed state to a
protruding state; and after starting the driving of the movable
optical system from the housed state, and before the movable
optical system reaches the protruding state, starting performing
of a second initialization which is unnecessary to drive the
movable optical system from the housed state. See, for example,
the disclosure in the specification at page 12, line 20 to
page 13, line 21, and at page 15, lines 20-25.

    Finally, new independent claim 23 is a computer-readable
storage medium/computer program claim based on method claim 22.

    No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully
requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and
entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

    Claims 1,2 and 6-10 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being
anticipated by US 2001/0009443 ("Suemoto et al"), and claims 3-5
were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of
Suemoto et al. These rejections, however, are respectfully
traversed with respect to the claims as set forth hereinabove.

    New independent claim 11 recites a camera device comprising:
a movable optical system; a driving unit configured to drive the
movable optical system; and a control unit configured to control
the driving unit; wherein the driving unit is configured to start

-8-

driving of the movable optical system from a housed state to a
protruding state in response to an instruction from the control
unit.

Moreover, according to new independent claim 11, the control
unit is configured to perform a first initialization which is
necessary to drive the movable optical system from the housed
state, start the driving of the movable optical system from the
housed state, and then start performing a second initialization
before the movable optical system reaches the protruding state,
wherein the second initialization is unnecessary to drive the
movable optical system from the housed state.

Thus, according to new independent claim 11, the control
unit controls the camera device such that: first, a first
initialization (which is necessary to drive the movable optical
system from the housed state) is performed. Then, driving of the
movable optical system is started. And then, after the driving
is started, but before the driving of the movable optical system
to the protruding state is complete ("before the movable optical
system reaches the protruding state"), a second initialization
which is not necessary to drive the movable optical system from
the housed state is started performed.

In other words, according to the present invention as
recited in new independent claim 11, the second initialization is
started after the moving of the optical system is started (and

-9-

hence after the first initialization), but the control unit does
not wait for the driving of the movable optical system to be
complete before starting the second initialization.

    For example, as explained in the specification at page 15,
lines 20-25, after the zoom-open processing of the zoom lens of
the camera is started, the main program is loaded without waiting
for the end of the zoom-open operation. Accordingly, as
explained in the specification at page 18, lines 4-11, for
example, since the end of the zoom-open operation of the lens
group 11 is not waited for, and the main program 103 is read
simultaneously with the zoom-open operation of the lens group 11,
an operating time required for initializing operations other than
the zoom-open operation of the lens group 11 can be shortened. As
a result, speedup of the starting time of the camera is possible.

    More generally, the structure recited in new independent
claim 11 enables the startup time required for the second
initialization operation to be shortened, because the second
initialization operation is started by the control unit without
waiting for the driving of the movable optical system to the
protruding state to be completed.

    Accordingly, at the time of startup in a state in which an
operation mode for photographing is set, a mechanical
initializing operation for driving the optical system to a
predetermined position (zoomed open), and operations required for

-10-

the other initializations can be carried out, as described in the specification at page 19, lines 15 to 21.

By contrast, it is respectfully submitted that although Suemoto et al discloses initializing an optical system to ready the system for photography, it is respectfully submitted that Suemoto et al does not disclose starting performing of a second initialization before the movable optical system reaches the protruding state, wherein the second initialization is unnecessary to drive the movable optical system from the housed state, as recited in new independent claim 11.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Suemoto et al does not disclose, teach or suggest the structure recited in new independent claim 11.

New independent method claim 22 and new independent computer-readable storage medium/computer program claim 23, moreover, recite: performing a first initialization which is necessary to drive the movable optical system from a housed state; starting driving of the movable optical system from the housed state to a protruding state; and after starting the driving of the movable optical system from the housed state, and before the movable optical system reaches the protruding state, starting performing a second initialization which is unnecessary to drive the movable optical system from the housed state.

-11-

It is respectfully submitted Suemoto et al does not disclose or render obvious the features of independent claims 22 and 23.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that new independent claims 11, 22 and 23 and claims 12-21 depending from claim 11 all clearly patentably distinguish over Suemoto et al, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

                        Respectfully submitted,

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